

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6-9, and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer pursuant to a restriction election. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to assert these claims in any future divisional or continuation applications. The Examiner's requirement for restriction divided the application into six (6) species groups as follows:

Group I embodied by Figures 3 and 4 showing the use of a light curtain sensor;
Group II embodied by Figures 7 and 8 showing mechanical contact feeler sensors;
Group III embodied by Figures 9 and 10 showing mechanical contact feeler sensors movable on a plate by pulleys and a filament;
Group IV embodied by Figure 11 showing the use of an air curtain sensor;
Group V embodied by Figure 12 showing a stacked sensor arrangement; and
Group VI embodied by Figures 13-16 showing a sensor/reflector system.

Applicants respectfully elect the prosecution of Claims 1, 3-5, 10, and 12-28 for Species Group VI as identified by the Examiner as being shown by Figs 13-16.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 1, 3, 10, and 12 appear to be generic.

In light of the above restriction election and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application now stands in formal condition for allowance and courteously ask for this application be advanced to issue. The Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fees, beyond the requested one month extension, are required with the submission of this response. However, if additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby respectfully authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account Number 13-2166. The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative, Taras P. Bemko, at 713-355-4200, to discuss any matters, that may arise, where such discussion may resolve such matters and place this application in condition for allowance.

Date: _____

July 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Taras P. Bemko

Taras P. Bemko (Registration No. 52,609)

The Matthews Firm (Customer # 021897)

2000 Bering, Ste. 700

Houston, Texas 77057

(713) 355-4200 - Telephone

(713) 355-9689 - Facsimile